



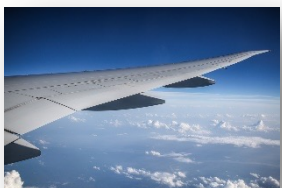
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# **National Airspace System Surveillance**





# United States National Airspace System (NAS) Operations



- **5,300,000 square miles of U.S. domestic airspace**
- **24,100,000 square miles of oceanic airspace**



- **14,000 (plus) Air Traffic Controllers**
  - **520 Air Traffic Control Towers**
  - **147 Terminal Approach Control Facilities**
  - **21 Air Route Traffic Control Centers**



- **19,633 airports**

# United States NAS Operations (continued)

**Air Traffic Services** are provided by Controllers who rely on various systems to safely and efficiently **guide aircraft from gate to gate**, and in doing so, transitioning from different **airspace domains** (Surface, Terminal and En-Route).

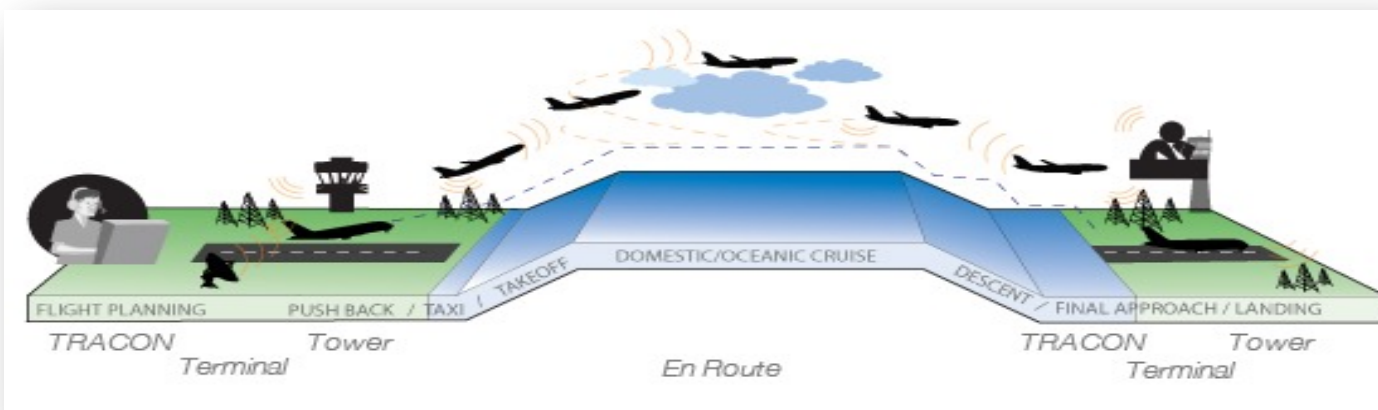


Image of an Aircraft Transitioning from Different Airspace Domains  
(e.g., Terminal, En-Route)

## FAA by the Numbers

- 16,405,000 flights handled by the FAA yearly
- 45,000 average daily flights handled by the FAA
  - 5,400 aircraft in the sky at peak time
- 25,506,000 General Aviation flight Hours per year
- Aviation contributed 5.2% of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)
  - \$488 Billion annual earnings from aviation

[https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/by\\_the\\_numbers/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/by_the_numbers/)

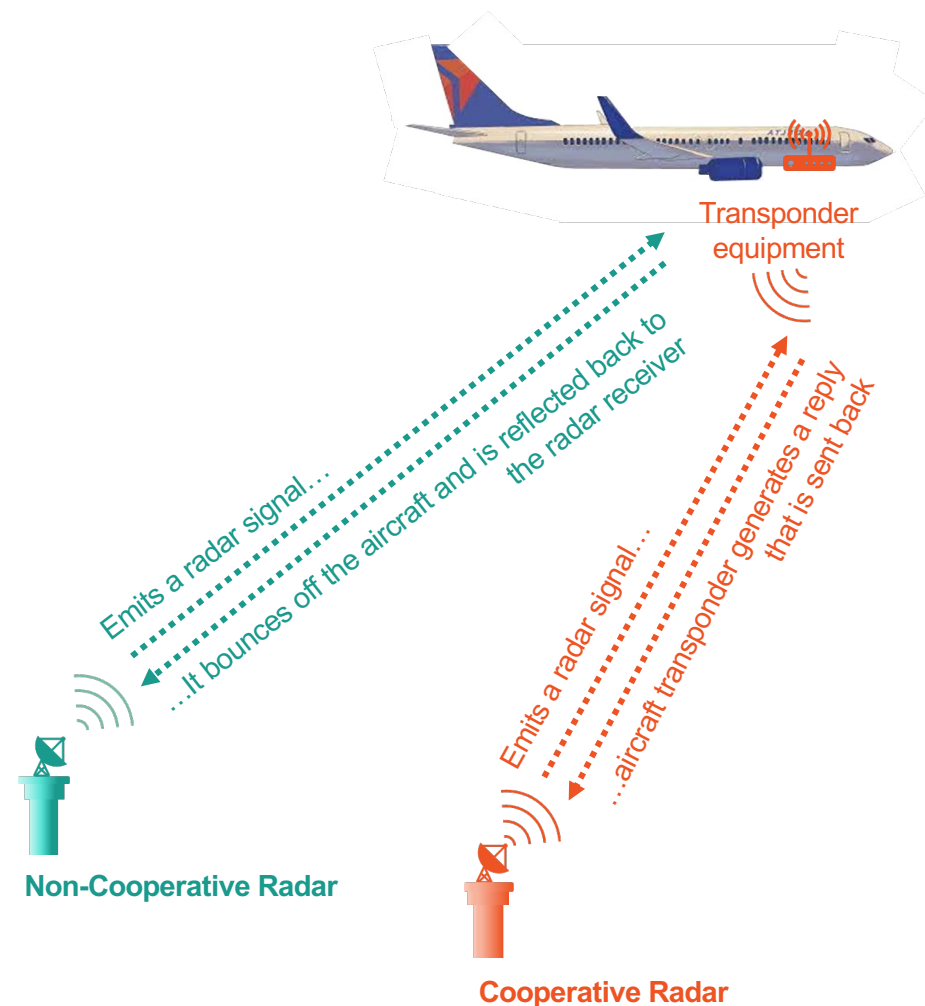
# Surveillance Services Categories

**Cooperative Surveillance** - Requires avionics on board the aircraft that work in coordination with ground-based systems to determine the aircraft position, altitude, and identity.

- A second radar beacon antenna attached to the top of non-cooperative radar antenna transmits and receives aircraft data for barometric altitude, identification code, and emergency condition.

**Non-Cooperative Surveillance** – Determines an aircraft's position independently, without the use of on-board avionics.

- Track aircraft not equipped with avionics or with failed avionics
- Provide air traffic control weather information





# Types of Surveillance Systems

## Short-Range Radar – Non-cooperative and Cooperative sensors

- Coverage: 40 to 60 nautical mile (NM) ranges from the radar sensor
- Use:
  - Control aircraft in Terminal airspace around airports
  - Gap filler coverage of En-Route airspace where long-range radars not available

## Long-Range Radar – Non-cooperative and Cooperative sensors

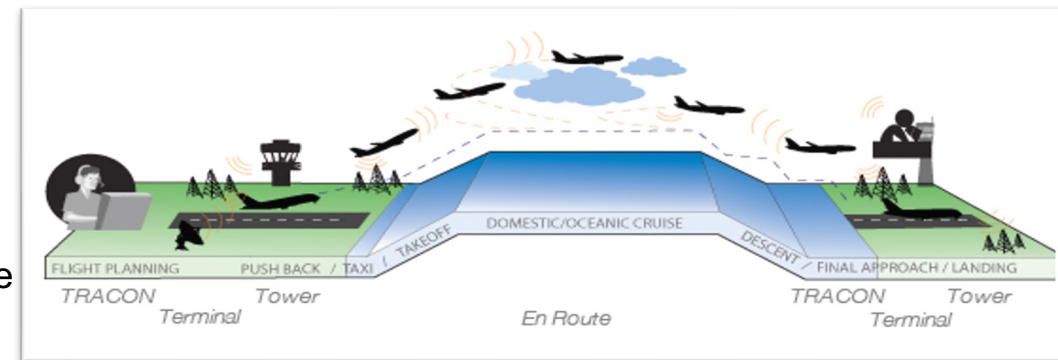
- Coverage: 200 to 250 NM nautical miles (NM) from the radar sensor
- Use:
  - Control aircraft in En-Route airspace to flying between 18,000 and 60,000 feet above sea level (Class A airspace)
  - Some coverage of Terminal airspaces where short-range radars not available

## Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) – Cooperative (ADS-B equipped aircraft position via Satellite GPS)

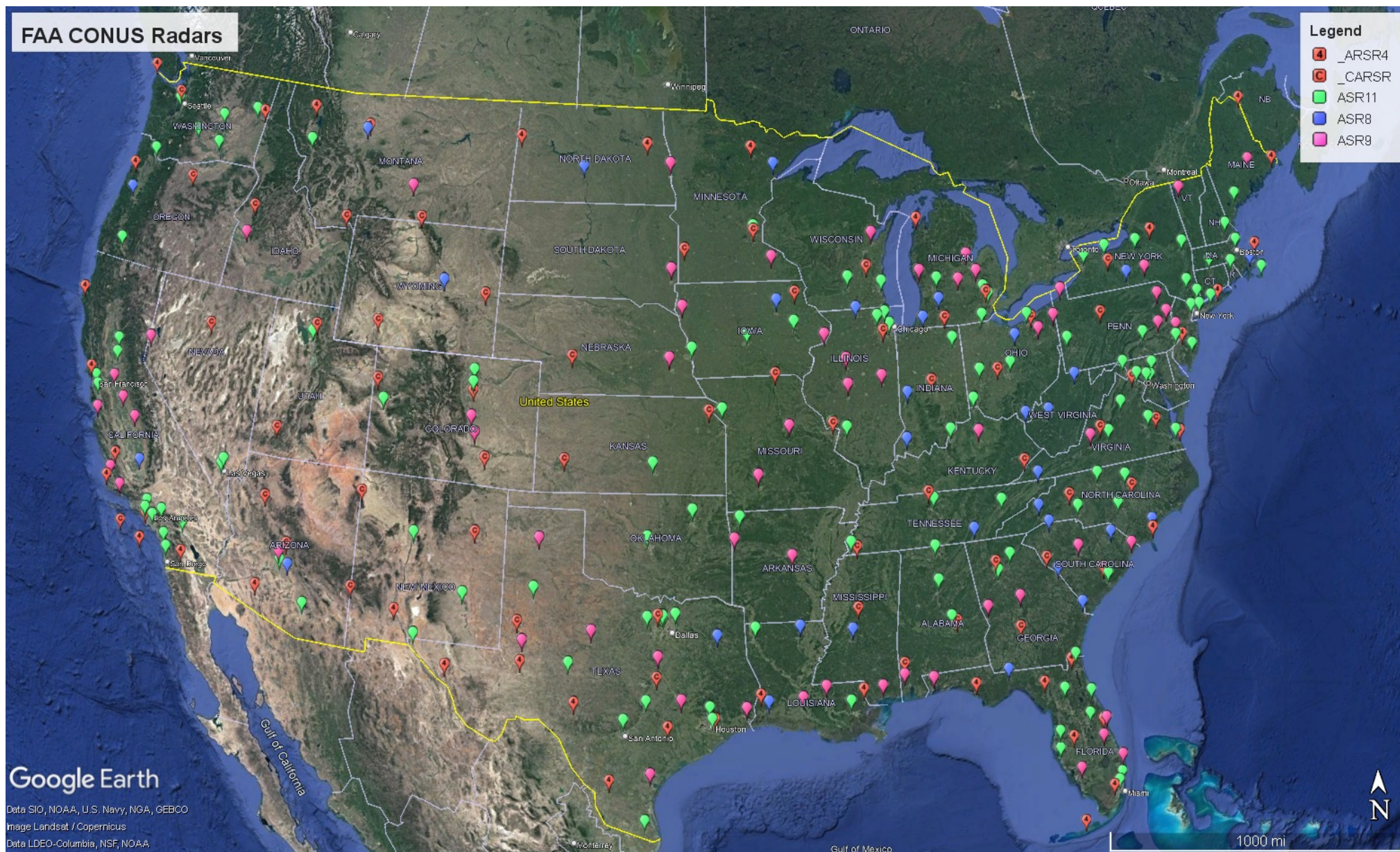
- Coverage: Over 600 ground stations across the US - No range limitations within ground station coverage
- Use:
  - Control aircraft in Surface, Terminal and En-Route airspace
  - Aircraft position data very accurate and high update rate

## Surface Surveillance – Non-cooperative and Cooperative

- Coverage: Airports surface and on approach and departure paths
- Use:
  - Provides situational awareness on the airport movement areas and 1-2 miles into approach corridors









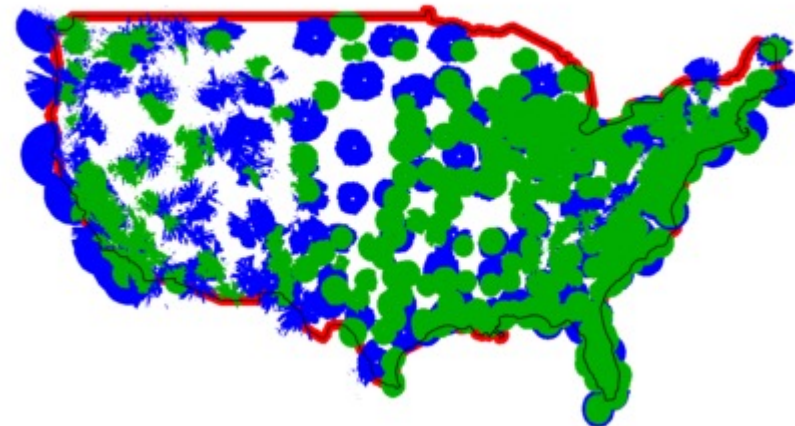


# Radar Line of Sight Coverage Above Ground Level (AGL)

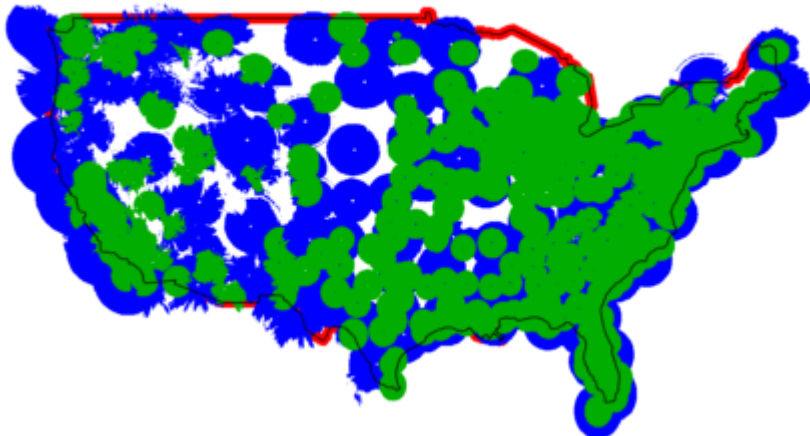
1000 ft AGL



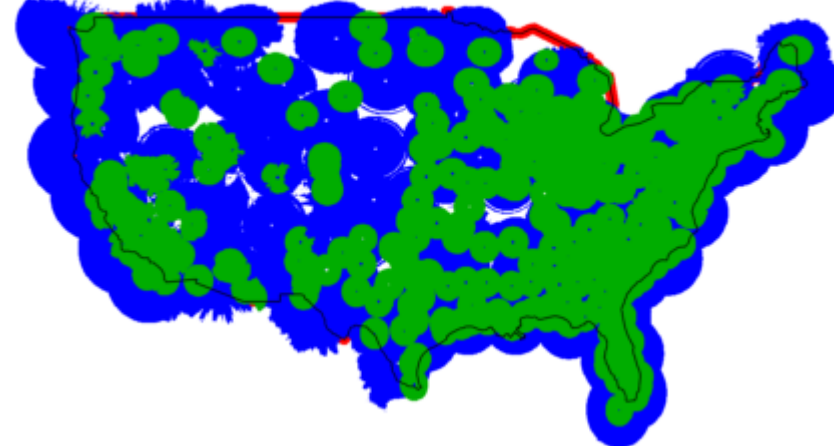
2000 ft AGL



5000 ft AGL



10000 ft AGL

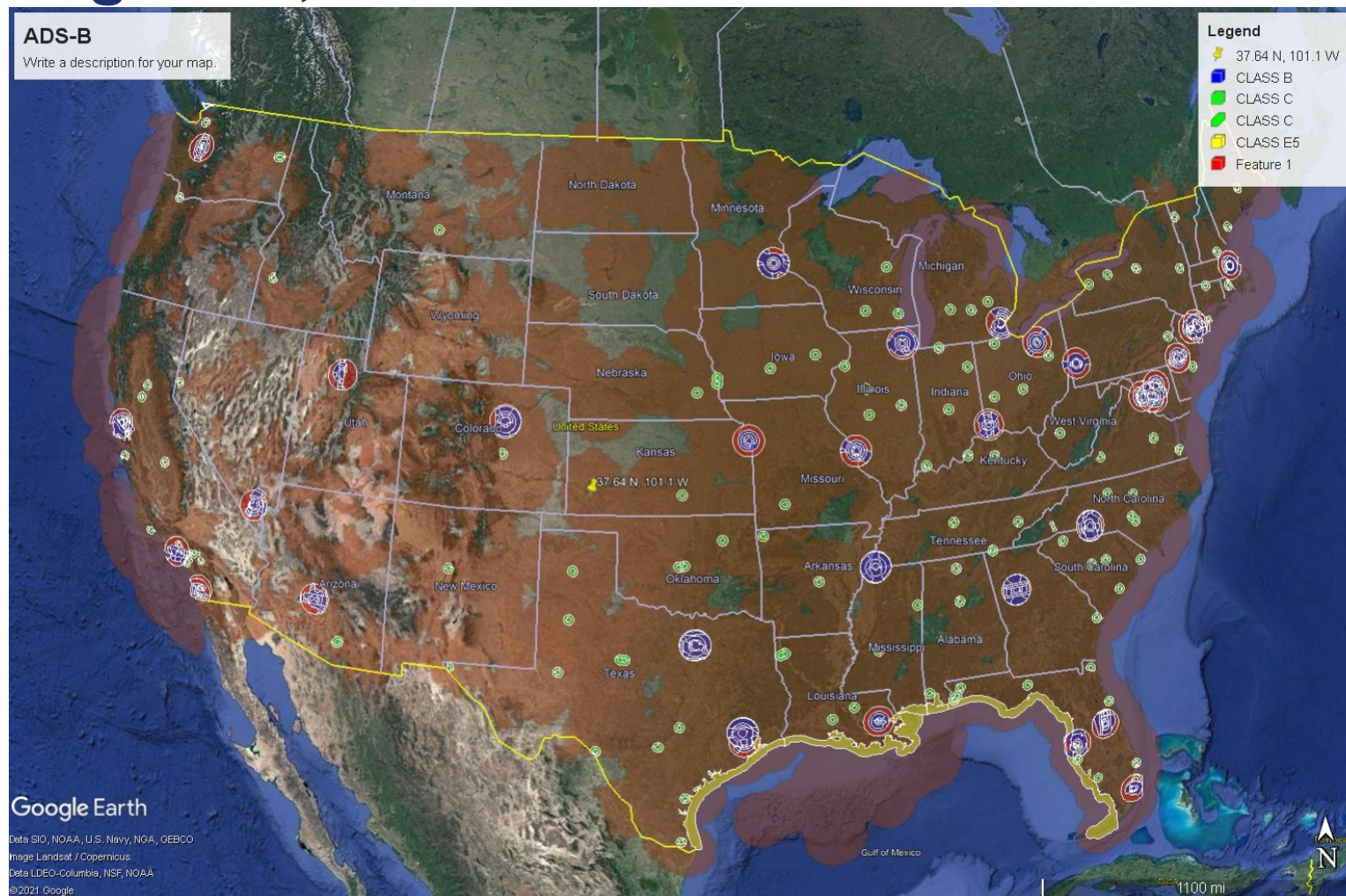


Non-Cooperative Long Range  
Radar Systems

Non-Cooperative Short Range  
Radar systems



# ADS-B Coverage at 1,500 ft AGL



**Significant ADS-B coverage exists across CONUS at 1,500 ft AGL**